

SMBRC Governing Board Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2015

Welcome and Introductions

At 9:35a.m. Micheal O'Leary called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

1) Comments from Members of the Public on Items Not on the Agenda and Public Testimony on All Agenda Items

Public Comment:

Kathy Knight asked who to go to get how tax payer funds of the Commission are being spent. Knight said no report of the WAC has been given. Knight recommended Cowspiracy, a movie.

Patricia McPherson said she objected not being able to address agenda items. McPherson also mentioned she got no response to a PRA she made. McPherson said the minutes do not reflect her requests, including requests to put documents on the Commission website. Scott Valor responded to this comment and said that the PRA for multiple documents was submitted April 11th and that by law there are 10 days to respond, and said he is working with State Water Board legal counsel and staff to get documents together.

Walter Lamb from the Ballona Wetlands Land Trust expressed sadness over the passing of Leonard Aube, who was the executive director of the Annenberg Foundation. He also noted that the WAC meeting was successful as a public open house but that it does not serve its purpose, which he said is increase feedback from the public and to create consensus from each individual. Lamb referred to four alternatives for the Ballona Wetlands, three of them being very ambitious, and said funding them will be a problem, and so all is left is no project.

Jeanette Vossburg from Sierra Club gave an overview of her concerns at the Marina. She distributed maps of parking lots that would be parking lots or turn into parks but instead may be turn into high-rise buildings. Vossburg distributed historical documents from the creation of the Marina that are germane to her concerns and to help the Marina.

Barbara Cameron asked if WAC members are allowed to schedule their own meetings or if they are restricted. Valor clarified that the chair with the aid of staff call for meetings during the year based on need and time but that there is nothing to preclude WAC members from coordinating a meeting on their own accord.

2) Informational Items

a) Order of Agenda

The order of agenda was not changed.

b) Reports from the Chair and Executive Committee (EC)

Valor gave the EC meeting report from March. Valor reported that several potential presentations were discussed including the two presentations for this meeting as well as one on the kelp restoration project and the Stormwater Capture Master Plan which may be seen at later meetings.

c) Reports from the Technical Advisory Committee

Rich Ambrose gave the TAC report. Ambrose reported that the TAC has increased efforts and focus on the State of the Bay report and has planned subgroups and individual conference calls in the summer for the different sections of the State of the Bay. Ambrose said the State of the Bay conference is tentatively planned for September 9, 2015.

d) Reports from the Executive Director (ED) and Staff

Tom Ford gave an overview of the annual National Estuary Program meeting in Washington DC. Ford gave some highlights of the meeting, which included meetings with EPA and NOAA and trends in regulations. Ford also spoke about a renewed focus and mandate to start planning for climate change and predicting climate change scenarios as part of the bay restoration plan, and said the SMB NEP is applying for a competitive grant to get the expertise needed with regards to increased storms, drought, hotter summers, high sea levels, etc. Ford also reported on a grant application submitted for a probe to measure key indicators, such as pH dissolved oxygen and partial carbon dioxide, for trends in ocean acidification off of our coast.

Ford reported that at the recommendation from the last Commission Governing Board meeting of \$500,000 available to the Arroyo Sequit project to help the trout has been approved by the State Water Resources Control Board. Ford also gave an overview of the March 10th WAC meeting, and said feedback is being compiled and will be brought to the meeting in June. Ford reported that staff continues to work with the Regional Water Board on \$7.2 million RFP from Prop 84 to support projects coming out of WMPs and EWMPs, and reconcile them with recommendations and input from the EC and WAC to include habitat and human use values in addition to the water quality benefit aspects. Ford briefly mentioned The Bay Foundation's collaborative work and results on kelp restoration and report to NOAA. Ford announced the Urban Coast is available online and is continuously open to submissions, and said the next issue will include the State of the Bay. Jim Knight asked if there are any studies of changes on the food chain with sea temperature change. Ford answered that monitoring of species is ongoing at the intertidal, subtidal, and wetlands areas and that, while much more work is needed, some pieces of trends are starting to show on these complex phenomena.

3) Governing Board Business

a) Consideration of Approval of February 19, 2015 Meeting Minutes

The February minutes were approved unanimously with one change: Jim Knight's title changed to Mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes. (M: Sachse, S: Gray).

b) Presentation on Prop 50 Project: City of Culver City's City-Wide BMP Treatment Train.

Steve Finton from the City of Culver City presented an overview on their City Wide BMP Treatment Train, which was funded in part by a Proposition 50 grant. As part of this project the City installed 1054 trash screens in every catch basin possible and permitted by the county. The city also strategically placed 95 trash and recycling receptacles around the city; these receptacles are emptied two times per week and are full every time. The City is now collecting more trash than they produce and are in compliance with the trash TMDL.

The City also installed four rain gardens. The Public Works Yard Rain Garden is 4000 square feet and treats and infiltrates 1.7 acres of runoff; they also have a 3000 gallon cistern. The Baldwin Creek Rain Garden treats and infiltrates 3.4 acres of runoff. The Transfer Station Rain Garden is 2050 square feet and treats and infiltrates 1.17 acres of runoff. The Baldwin Avenue Rain Garden is 2100 square feet and treats and infiltrates 5.6 acres of runoff. The rain gardens will infiltrate the 85th percentile storm runoff from 11 acres.

Questions from the board and answers from the presenter followed the presentation.

c) Presentation on Bacterial Source ID Study at Topanga Beach

Rosi Dagit and Amy Zimmer-Faust presented the results of the identification of bacteria at Topanga Beach study. Dagit gave an overview of how the study began with talks on exceedances and public health risk, and presented an outline of the presentation. Dagit displayed source ID sampling sites to test hypotheses such as what happens at the upper watershed in fecal indicator bacteria (FIB) and nutrients and how they are responsible for what happens at the beach, why water quality improves moving down the creek as shown on other studies, and benthic macro-invertebrates (BMI) indexes of biotic integrity increase as creek flows downstream. Dagit said they are seeing regional patterns of the drought having an adverse

effect, especially in the last 2 years, and they are beginning to see changes in species composition. Dagit also stated that they looked at all septic systems and found no contributions from these into the lagoon or the ocean, and no evidence of dye seeping into the creek, with the exception of a Malibu Feed bin.

Zimmer-Faust presented specific results of the study, hypothesis tested, objectives and results. Zimmer-Faust gave a detailed account of the methods used and the reasons, which included culture-based methods and DNA-based markers. With the question of whether upper levels contribute to high levels of FIB on the surf zone, the study showed that upstream creek do not appear to be a primary contributor to FIB in the surfzone except when both flow and FIB levels in the upper watershed are elevated, and summarized that human markers do not appear to be transported downstream and high FIB levels upstream not likely to affect lower watershed sites. In summary, Zimmer-Faust said the lagoon breaching effect on FIB in the surfzone, FIB in the surfzone do not originate at the upstream creek source, dog and gull are important fecal sources to the surfzone, and human marker is infrequent although it may be also be a potential source.

For copies of this presentation and study executive summary, please visit:

http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/agendas/2015apr/topanga_pres_exec_sum.pdf
http://www.smbrc.ca.gov/about_us/agendas/2015apr/041615_tsid_pres.pdf

Board member question and answer followed the presentation.

d) Member Comment—Governing Board members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda

Wing Tam announced a City Sanitation workshop on June 17th at the Hyperion treatment. Barbara Cameron acknowledged Susan Nissman for all her work since she missed the last meeting. Gloria Gray said MWD adopted a water supply allocation plan. Clark Stevens mentioned that mountain lions have been in the news lately and that the US 101 Liberty Canyon project overpass and large tunnel plans have been submitted to CalTrans and is fast moving thanks to SMM Conservancy and MRCA. Sarah Sikich mentioned the statewide trash policy adopted by the State Water Board set a zero trash goal and believes this is in part due to the leadership of Los Angeles region. Joan Cardellino thanked SMBRC members who attended the Coastal Conservancy public hearing on Prop 1 funding. Cardellino said funds will be appropriated to the Coastal Conservancy in July and that the first round of grants will be in August. Jim Knight mentioned his city's green street ordinance and limited development ordinance and said a letter of recommendation was put forth in support of SB 485.

e) The Next Meeting Date was Announced as June 18, 2015

The meeting was adjourned at 11:37 a.m. without objection (M: Tam, S: Cardellino).

Attendance

Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Barbara Cameron, Malibu Creek Watershed Cities (City of Malibu, for John Sibert)
Joan Cardellino, California State Coastal Conservancy
Charles Caspary, Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
Liz Crosson, Public Member/Environmental, Angeles Waterkeeper
Fran Diamond, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles
Gloria Gray, At-Large Member (West Basin MWD)
Robert Godfrey, At-Large Member (Marina Del Rey Anglers)
Suzanne Goode, California Department of Parks and Recreation
Grace Hyde, LA County Sanitation Districts
Jim Knight, South Bay Cities (Mayor, City of Rancho Palos Verdes)
Timothy Lippman, Office of Sheila Kuehl, Supervisor, 3rd District, County of Los Angeles
Dan Murphy, LA County Fire Department, Lifeguard Division
Micheal O'Leary, SMBRC Chair, Ballona Creek Watershed Cities (City of Culver City)

Mark Pestrella, LA County Department of Public Works
Marvin Sachse, Public Member (Business/ Economic Interest), Brash Industries
Sarah Sikich, Public Member/Environmental, Heal the Bay
Rorie Skei, Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy
Clark Stevens, At-Large Member BWC (SM Mtns RCD)
Wing Tam, LA City Dept of Public Works
Michael Tripp, LA County Department of Beaches & Harbors

Non-Voting Members of the Governing Board:

Rich Ambrose, Technical Advisory Committee, Chair
Odysseus Bostick, Office of Assembly Member Autumn Burke, 62nd District
Samantha David, Office of State Senator Ben Allen, 26th District
Laurie Newman, President, The Bay Foundation
Dusty Russell, Office of State Senator Fran Pavley, 27th District

SMB NEP Staff present:

Heather Burdick
Tom Ford
Victoria Gambale
Scott Valor
Marcelo Villagomez

Other Attendees, including other Watershed Advisory Council Members:

E.J. Caldwell, West Basin MWD
Josh Carvalho, City of Santa Monica
Rosi Dagit, Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains
Laura Emberson, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Steve Finton, City of Culver City
Kathy Knight, Ballona Ecosystem Education Project
Walter Lamb, Ballona Wetlands Land Trust
Patricia McPherson, Grass Roots Coalition, Sierra Club
TJ Moon, LA County Public Works
Amy Zimmer-Faust, UCLA
Jeanette Vossburg, Grass Roots Coalition, Sierra Club